

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

**September 30, 2025
4:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: C. Allen, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward,
Superintendent Stanley

J. Vue was absent.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Absent

4. 2026-2027 School Year Preliminary Property Tax Levy Certification

Superintendent Stanley then introduced Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to present this item.

Chief Sager reviewed the highlights including:

- Notices of proposed property taxes will be sent to taxpayers in November.
- On an annual basis, Minnesota school districts are required to certify the district preliminary property tax levy on later than September 30.
- The School Board will discuss the levy and budget at the School Board meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd, and is scheduled to adopt the final property tax levy at the December 16th meeting.

- The recommendation is for the School Board to set the Pay 26 levy at the maximum allowable amount to accommodate flexibility and any adjustments that might occur before the final levy is certified in December 2025.
- Based on the data in the preliminary levy report, the school district's property tax levy is decreasing by 1.98 percent for the Pay 26 levy.

The basics of the levy were reviewed, including that school levy authority is established in law, that the Pay26 school levy funds are for the 2026-2027 school year, and that local property taxes account for approximately 20% of the SPPS budget. Information on the determination of property taxes was also provided, including state legislature, taxing jurisdictions, and the county assessor. Major factors impacting property taxes were also shared, as well as factors impacting school levies. The major levy categories, including General Operating, Pension/OPEB/Contractual, Facilities, and Community Service, were also presented. The levy recap was also provided, including the proposed percent change of -1.98%. Key drivers of the Pay26 SPPS levy were reviewed, as well as SPPS' five-year trend for annual property tax levy. Comparisons of SPPS to other local district were shared for the areas of total property taxes per student, property taxes as a center of total budget, property taxes as a percent of general fund, and debt service tax revenue per student. Information on MDE's calculations were also shared, including that the levy amounts presented today may be different than the amount presented at the Truth in Taxation meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m., because MDE continues a detailed review to ensure accuracy in the levy system.

The Pay26 levy calendar was also reviewed, including the start of the process in August-Early September with the District submission of levy information to MDE, and ending with the December 30th certification of the Pay26 levy to Ramsey County.

Details of the requested action include:

- Set the date for the Truth in Taxation and Budget Hearing for December 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. (Committee of the Board meeting that evening)
- Approve the maximum amount authorized by MDE for the 25 Pay 26 property tax levy
- This will provide the District with the greatest flexibility as MDE makes adjustments ahead of the final certification in December.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Carrillo noted a question if enrollment would be a potential change to the levy, as the others noted in the presentation. Response: Enrollment will not change this proposed levy, as those adjustments would affect next year's levy figures.
- Director Henderson requested information on the decreases in the General Fund, as noted in the presentation. Response: That is the result of the number use for the per pupil amount which is slightly less than this year, as well as integration and achievement funding which also decreased slightly.
- Director Carrillo requested additional information on the pension/OPEB fund. Response: MDE is calculating that amount differently, and we are still able to fund the unfunded portion for the total liability. More information was also provided on the OPEB liabilities.
- Director Ward noted that he would like to learn more about the specific formula, as well as previous discussions that when school districts do not vote to certify the maximum levy, there is the loss of other funding from the state aid.
- Director Valliant noted further questions on the OPEB trust, and the funded portion nets the proceeds from earned interest for the liabilities. It can also only be used for specific purposes.

BF 34430 2026-2027 School Year Preliminary Property Tax Levy Certification

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to certify the maximum allowable levy for taxes payable in 2026 as presented and that the School Board to set the annual Truth in Taxation Hearing date for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM. in Conference Rooms A and B of the District Administration Building at 360 Colborne. (There is a Committee of the Board meeting scheduled for that evening, so there will be break at 6:00 p.m. to move to Conference Rooms A and B). The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Absent

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Absent

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:

Sarah Dahlke
Secretary to the Board, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education